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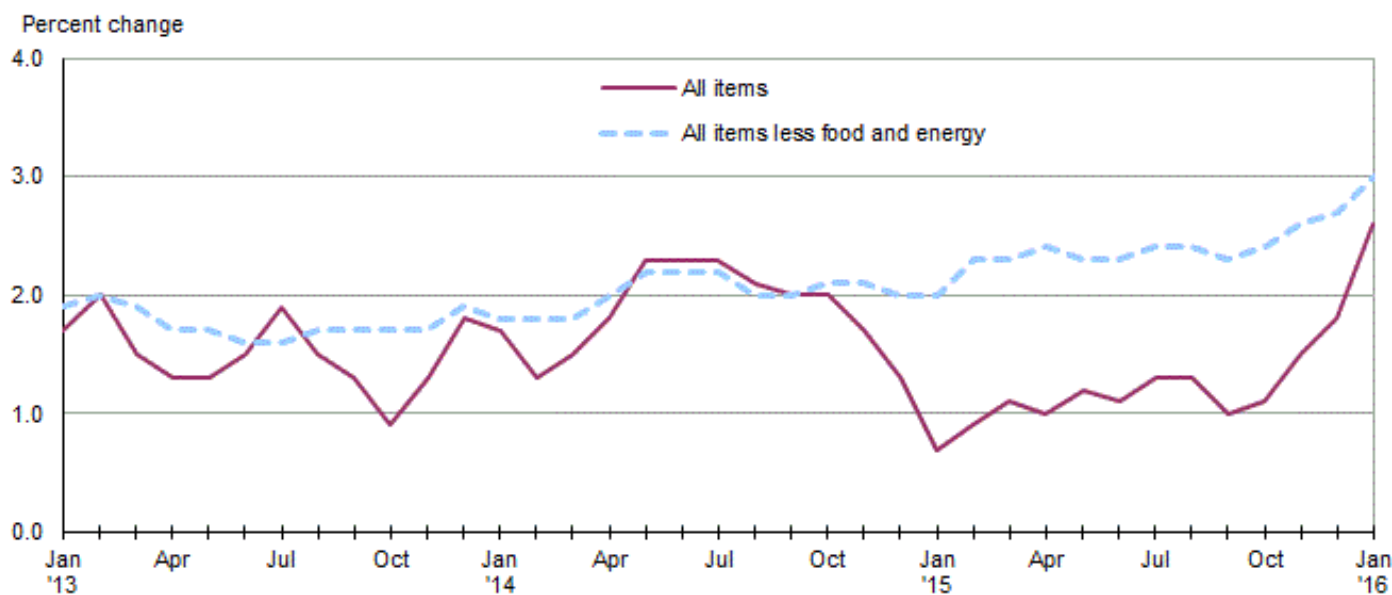
Consumer Price Index, West Region — January 2016

Area prices were up 0.5 percent over the past month, up 2.6 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.5 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) The January increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and food. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 2.6 percent. The last time the CPI-U increased more than 2.5 percent for a 12-month period was in January 2012. (See [chart 1.](#)) Energy prices advanced 1.9 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 3.0 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, January 2013–January 2016



Food

Food prices increased 0.4 percent for the month of January. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home and prices for food away from home each increased 0.4 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 1.2 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 3.4 percent since a year ago, but prices for food at home decreased 0.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 0.6 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for electricity (2.0 percent) and natural gas service (1.5 percent). Prices for gasoline declined 0.4 percent in the same period.

Energy prices advanced 1.9 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (5.0 percent). Prices paid for electricity increased 0.8 percent, but prices for natural gas service declined 5.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.5 percent in January. Prices increased for household furnishings and operations (1.0 percent), recreation (0.7 percent), shelter (0.6 percent), and apparel (0.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 3.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.6 percent), medical care (3.0 percent), and recreation (2.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in new cars (-0.6 percent) and apparel (-0.1 percent).

Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.5	1.4	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6
February.....	0.6	1.9	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9		
March.....	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1		
April.....	0.6	3.0	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0		
May.....	0.3	3.2	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2		
June.....	-0.2	3.1	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1		
July.....	-0.1	2.9	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3		
August.....	0.2	3.0	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3		
September.....	0.4	3.5	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0		
October.....	0.0	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1		
November.....	-0.2	3.2	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5		
December.....	-0.3	2.7	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8		

The February 2016 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on March 16, 2016.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE:Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	243.749	243.434	244.600	2.6	0.3	0.5
All items (December 1977=100).....	394.007	393.498	395.382			
Food and beverages.....	251.757	251.102	252.297	1.2	0.2	0.5
Food.....	251.951	251.300	252.408	1.2	0.2	0.4
Food at home.....	249.920	248.480	249.584	-0.3	-0.1	0.4
Food away from home.....	253.577	254.041	255.149	3.4	0.6	0.4
Alcoholic beverages.....	245.827	245.138	247.478	1.6	0.7	1.0
Housing.....	257.121	258.106	259.985	3.9	1.1	0.7
Shelter.....	292.216	293.423	295.183	4.6	1.0	0.6
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	307.166	308.893	310.112	4.8	1.0	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	306.998	308.301	309.485	4.6	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	306.978	308.284	309.472	4.6	0.8	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	273.243	273.085	277.144	0.9	1.4	1.5
Household energy.....	234.637	234.451	238.794	-0.6	1.8	1.9
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	236.244	236.140	240.609	-0.7	1.8	1.9
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	261.784	260.589	265.864	0.8	1.6	2.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	190.266	192.761	195.589	-5.5	2.8	1.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	128.345	129.113	130.436	1.8	1.6	1.0
Apparel.....	118.848	115.729	116.407	-0.1	-2.1	0.6
Transportation.....	197.083	195.062	194.907	2.1	-1.1	-0.1
Private transportation.....	190.213	188.654	188.555	2.3	-0.9	-0.1
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	100.159	99.778	99.730	0.2	-0.4	0.0
New vehicles.....	146.557	146.074	146.138	0.4	-0.3	0.0
New cars and trucks ^{(3) (4)}	101.779	101.454	101.496	0.3	-0.3	0.0
New cars ⁽⁴⁾	145.296	144.765	144.848	-0.6	-0.3	0.1
Used cars and trucks.....	138.050	137.111	137.043	0.0	-0.7	0.0
Motor fuel.....	205.325	199.182	198.078	4.4	-3.5	-0.6
Gasoline (all types).....	204.427	198.342	197.513	5.0	-3.4	-0.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	201.794	195.732	194.666	4.8	-3.5	-0.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	197.104	190.802	190.843	5.4	-3.2	0.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	201.449	196.112	196.123	6.1	-2.6	0.0
Medical Care.....	458.708	459.224	460.641	3.0	0.4	0.3
Medical care commodities.....	346.064	345.408	347.688	1.8	0.5	0.7
Medical care services.....	494.643	495.621	496.693	3.3	0.4	0.2
Professional services.....	341.335	341.980	342.595	2.7	0.4	0.2
Recreation ⁽³⁾	111.266	110.725	111.498	2.2	0.2	0.7
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	138.879	138.660	138.896	0.4	0.0	0.2
Other goods and services.....	405.941	406.063	406.263	1.3	0.1	0.0
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	243.749	243.434	244.600	2.6	0.3	0.5
Commodities.....	178.287	177.122	177.738	1.0	-0.3	0.3
Commodities less food & beverages.....	141.820	140.486	140.849	0.8	-0.7	0.3
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	177.597	175.142	175.510	1.3	-1.2	0.2
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel.....	219.207	217.157	217.336	1.8	-0.9	0.1
Durables.....	108.704	108.388	108.737	0.0	0.0	0.3
Services.....	304.128	304.636	306.318	3.6	0.7	0.6
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	310.884	312.178	314.055	4.6	1.0	0.6
Transportation services.....	286.091	284.624	285.013	2.4	-0.4	0.1

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015
Other services.....	339.305	338.421	339.939	2.1	0.2	0.4
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care.....	233.918	233.571	234.724	2.6	0.3	0.5
All items less food.....	242.648	242.386	243.561	2.9	0.4	0.5
All items less shelter.....	225.289	224.322	225.244	1.6	0.0	0.4
Commodities less food.....	145.727	144.404	144.822	0.8	-0.6	0.3
Nondurables.....	214.504	212.867	213.626	1.3	-0.4	0.4
Nondurables less food.....	182.593	180.233	180.714	1.3	-1.0	0.3
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	221.429	219.512	219.885	1.8	-0.7	0.2
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	329.931	329.466	331.083	2.3	0.3	0.5
Services less medical care services.....	290.890	291.366	293.083	3.6	0.8	0.6
Energy.....	220.716	217.214	218.529	1.9	-1.0	0.6
All items less energy.....	247.467	247.391	248.555	2.7	0.4	0.5
All items less food and energy.....	247.460	247.485	248.661	3.0	0.5	0.5
Commodities less food and energy commodities.....	139.613	138.860	139.460	0.2	-0.1	0.4
Energy commodities.....	209.693	203.507	202.420	4.4	-3.5	-0.5
Services less energy services.....	309.218	309.766	311.280	3.8	0.7	0.5

⁽¹⁾ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

⁽²⁾ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

⁽³⁾ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁽⁴⁾ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁽⁵⁾ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.